

## Debra Bechtel named NC County Attorney of Year



Catawba County Attorney Debra Bechtel has been named County Attorney of the Year by the North Carolina County Association of County Attorneys. She was honored on July 21 at the Association's annual meeting, held in New Bern.

The County Attorney of the Year honor is given annually to one county attorney in the state. Bechtel was recognized for her service to Catawba County and for her service to the association and local governments across the state.

"This award is a reflection of the great respect that Debra has earned from her peers for her expertise, hard work, and dedication as a county attorney," said Pitt County Attorney Janis Gallagher, President of the Association. "Debra has contributed significantly to the North Carolina Association of County Attorneys, an affiliate group of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, through her service as an officer over the last four years, serving as President in 2010-2011. Debra's professionalism, commitment to public service, and leadership among county attorneys in North Carolina contributed to her achievement of this great honor."

"Debra is well deserving of this recognition," said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. "She is well respected throughout the state for her thorough research and education she provides both locally and shares with her fellow county attorneys throughout the state."

The mission of the North Carolina County Attorney's Association is to support county attorneys in their endeavor to advise, represent and assist elected county commissioners, county managers, and employees in the execution of their duties. The organization also promotes continuing education and the reinforcement of ethical behavior by its members.

(see Bechtel, pg. 7)

## Rodney Miller is NC Finance Officer of Year



Rodney Miller, Catawba County Finance Director, has been named Outstanding N.C. Finance Officer of the Year for 2011-12 by the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association, which is affiliated with the University of North Carolina's School of Government. He received the honor at the Association's

annual conference held July 15-17, 2012.

"This award traditionally and annually recognizes and honors the local government finance officer who has demonstrated state leadership in local government finance issues by serving as the organization's president," said Rebecca Troutman, Intergovernmental Relations Director for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, who presented Miller with the award.

"I am very proud to receive this recognition from my peers across the State," Miller said. "The professionalism and dedication exhibited by this group is outstanding and encourages me to continue to strive for excellence in providing financial service to the County and its citizens."

As Finance Director, Miller supervises the daily financial operations of the County, which includes accounting, purchasing, financial management, and audit functions. In addition, he provides technical support to the County Manager, is responsible for the investment and use of County funds and works with other departments and external agencies on all financial matters of the County. He also oversees building and vehicle maintenance functions, as well as long range planning for facility expansion.

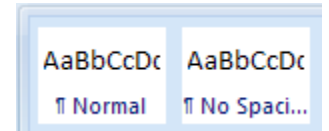
"Rodney provides outstanding leadership and management of the County's financial health, as well as facilities and grounds," said Tom Lundy, Catawba County Manager. "His stewardship and investment of County resources, hard work and careful attention to opportunities which reduce costs, make him an extremely valuable member of the County team. We're proud of his involvement and service to his state association, and glad that they have recognized him for his leadership."

(see Miller, pg. 7)

## Controlling Paragraphs in Word 2007

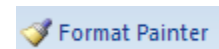
**What is a Paragraph, Really?** When you type a paragraph you DO NOT press Enter at the end of each line, you press ENTER only at the end of the entire paragraph. So, Word considers a paragraph to be anything between two ENTERS.

**Defaults in Word 2007:** It used to be that when you typed on a typewriter or computer, everything was single-spaced, by default, and you had to press Enter twice to skip a line. Word 2007 changed both of those. Spacing within paragraph is now 1.15 instead of 1.0 (what we think of as single-spacing). This additional amount of spacing makes your documents a bit easier to read. Also Word pads the bottom of each paragraph with 10 points of extra spacing so you don't have to press an extra Enter to skip a line. If you don't like these changes, you can control these by using the No Spacing style, or by using the Line Spacing Tool, both of which are on the Home Tab.



**Being Consistent With Line Spacing:** You don't want your document to be full of different kinds of line spacing. For example you don't want some paragraphs to be 1.0 and others to be 1.15. There are several ways to help ensure consistency:

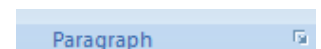
1. Select the whole document, after you have created it, by triple-clicking in the left margin. Then choose the spacing options you want.
2. Choose your line spacing choices **before** typing anything
3. Click in a paragraph whose formatting, including line spacing, you like. Use the Format Painter on the Home Tab to copy the characteristics. Paint through another paragraph and it will take on those characteristics, such as font, point size, bold etc.



**Justification:** You have four choices. Your paragraph can be Left, Center, Right or Full Justification. If you choose Full, Word inserts extra space between words to make the right margin even. Generally, you do not want to mix Left & Full justification within a page; choose one or the other.

### Ways to Indent and Change the Shape Of Your Paragraph:

1. Use the tools in paragraph area of Home Tab to decrease or increase amount of indentation on the left.
2. Click on the diagonal arrow on paragraph section of Home Tab to go to Paragraph dialog box. Here you can control right & left indent, and if you look at the category called Special, you can choose Hanging or First line indent.



Hanging indent is usually used for bullets...the bullet appears at the left margin, followed by a tab, then the rest of the paragraph follows. When the paragraph wraps, it lines up under the previous text, not under the bullet. This paragraph is a good example of a Hanging indent.

First line indent means that the first line of a paragraph is indented, but when it wraps, the next line and subsequent lines will be not be indented. This paragraph is an example of first line indent.

3. You can drag the markers on the Ruler to change the indentation of paragraphs. If the Ruler is not showing at the top of your page and you want to use it for indents or tabs, go to the View Tab to turn it on.



## SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND

Submitted by  
Miriam Powell  
Risk Manager

### Tornado training

#### *Know how to protect yourself*



If the weather service issues a **tornado 'watch,'** it means that a tornado is

possible in the area, and you should make preparations. A **tornado 'warning'** means that a tornado is in the area and you should immediately take shelter.

#### **Know what to do when a tornado is approaching.**

##### **If you are inside:**

- Stay inside, close windows, and go to a designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.
- If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (for example, a closet or hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.

- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out immediately and go to a sturdy, nearby building.
- Don't seek shelter under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris, which causes most fatalities and injuries.

##### **If you are caught outside:**

- Get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park. Stay in the car with the seat belt on, put your head down below the windows, and cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or cushion if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway (for example, a trench, ditch, or ravine), leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

##### **Check the Catawba County Emergency Action Plan:**

- Check your building Emergency Action plan for the location in your building that is designated to shelter in place for a weather related event. Emergency Action Plans may be seen on the Intranet at <http://cocatshare01/employees/riskmgt/default.aspx>
- Remember to crouch and cover your head.
- **Remember tornado drills give you the ability to practice your training.**

**LIVE UNITED:  
CREATING CHANGE FOR OUR FUTURE**



**United Way 2012 Campaign Kick-Off**

Catawba County's United Way is focused on Education, Income and Health – the building blocks for a good life. For more than 60 years, Catawba County United Way has been doing significant work in our community. To create sustainable change, United Way is focusing their efforts in the areas of education, income and health with outcomes that will create a more vital, more stable and better community in which to live and work. Last year Catawba County employees gave over \$75,000 to help fund programs offered by groups such as Adult Life, Children's Advocacy Center, Exodus Homes, Rape Crisis Center and Public Health's Kids-in-Need program.

Your gift to United Way made a lasting impact in the lives of the people of our community last year and we hope you will consider partnering with United Way again during Catawba County's 2012 Campaign. As you consider your contribution to United Way this year, please remember:

- your United Way donations stay right here in our community,
- local volunteers closely review individual agency funding requests and help allocate funds where the need is the greatest, and
- one out of every three people living or working in Catawba County will need a United Way agency service this year.

**The 2012 Catawba County Employee United Way Goal is: \$68,803**



**NEED A NEW CAR?** To show appreciation for your gift, United Way and Paramount Automotive have teamed up to offer you a chance to win a brand new 2012 car. Employees who make a minimum Fair Share donation (0.6% of salary or 1 hour's pay per month) will be entered into a drawing to win a 2012 Kia, Hyundai or Volkswagen (winner's choice). For more information, see your departmental United Way representative.

This year, in addition to your individual contribution, you will have the opportunity to participate in several countywide FUNraising events:

1. 50-50 Raffle - Drawings for prizes each week (August 24<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>) with the final drawing on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the County Awards Banquet. Tickets prices are 1 ticket for \$1; 7 tickets for \$5; and 15 tickets for \$10. Tickets may be purchased from your departmental UW representative. Contact Lynn Baker in the Sheriff's Office at 465-4866 if you have questions.
2. Breakfast-to-Go – Interested in a biscuit or pastry as you start your work day? Breakfast-to-Go will be available on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center, Justice Center and Social Services and on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Public Health. Look for more information about this event soon.

3. Blue Jean/Jersey/Tennis Shoes Fridays – Each Friday in September, for a small United Way donation, you may get comfortable and wear blue jeans and/or tennis shoes or sport team jerseys to work (if your department head has approved this FUNraiser for your department).
4. Chili Cook-Off – Have a great Chili recipe? Make a batch and share it during the United Way Chili Cook-Off. Scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center and on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the DHR Campus, you'll have a chance to share your recipe or taste someone else's recipe and help United Way at the same time. Advance tickets will be available from your department representative. In addition, you may also purchase tickets the day of the event. More information about this FUNraiser will be available soon.
5. 1st Annual Catawba County Womanless Beauty Pageant - On October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Newton Conover Auditorium, come experience an evening of entertainment that will feature a few good men dressing up as women and raising some money for United Way. Help us find and crown Catawba County's Womanless Beauty. Men sign up with Mark Logan by August 10th. Stay tuned for further information on this must attend event!

How do you donate? To help make the donation process as convenient as possible, the United Way donation form is available on-line. All benefited employees should complete this form by October 12, 2012, even if no donation to United Way is made. You may access this form through PeopleSoft; the path is SELF SERVICE > CATAWBA COUNTY TIME & BENEFITS > UNITED WAY. Please remember that one time payroll deductions are not allowed. If you choose to donate through payroll deduction, you must donate at least \$2 per pay period. If you choose to make a onetime donation, please send a check through your department representative (make checks payable to Catawba County United Way).

Thanks in advance for your support of our community through United Way.

**Let's all LIVE UNITED!**

Cynthia Eades and Mark Logan  
2012 Catawba County United Way Campaign Co-chairs

**Visit Catawba County Online:**

**Website-** [www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)

**Facebook-** [www.facebook.com/pages/Newton-NC/Catawba-County-North-Carolina/25829482210?v=wall&viewas=0](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newton-NC/Catawba-County-North-Carolina/25829482210?v=wall&viewas=0)

**Twitter-** <http://twitter.com/catawbacounty>

**Community Alert System-** [www.catawbacountync.gov/alert/](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/alert/)

**Green Team Blog-** [www.catawbagreen.blogspot.com/](http://www.catawbagreen.blogspot.com/)

**CIO Blog-** [http://enewsetter.catawbacountync.gov/ITC/?page\\_id=36](http://enewsetter.catawbacountync.gov/ITC/?page_id=36)

**Subscribe to County e-newsletter-** <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/pubs/subscribe.asp>

**Library e-newsletter-** <http://enewsetter.catawbacountync.gov/library/>



# WELCOME NEW COUNTY EMPLOYEES!



**Christopher Barker**  
Inc. Maint. Caseworker  
Social Services



**Haley Kadish**  
Management Analyst  
County Manager's Office



**Barron Monroe**  
Budget Analyst II  
County Manager's Office



**Jolna Nightingale**  
Teaching Parent  
Social Services

## FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK

Parents can teach their children the following safety tips which will inform the youngsters of the danger signs to watch for and avoid when walking between school and home.

Drivers should be cautious of children walking back and forth to school or bus stops. We can all learn from the safety tips below and abide by them to make Catawba County safer for all.



- While walking, remember to always travel with a friend. Two heads are better than one, especially if there's an emergency.
- A stranger is anyone you or your parents don't know well.
- You or your friend must never take candy, money, medicine or anything else from a stranger.
- If a stranger in a car asks you questions, don't get close to the car (you could get pulled in) – and never get in the car.
- Strangers can be very tricky – they can ask you to walk with them to "show" them something; they can offer to pay for your video game, or ask you to help them find a lost dog or cat. Don't be fooled!
- Don't tell anyone your name or address when you're walking and don't think that because someone knows your name that they know you – they may just be looking at your name printed on your lunch box, school bag or T-shirt.
- If you think you're in any danger, yell, and run to the nearest store or "safe house" or back to school.
- Always tell your parents or teacher if a stranger has approached you.

By taking the time to carefully prepare your child on how to handle these situations, you can insure your child's safety whether they are on their way to school or home, playing on a playground or riding their bikes.

### **Bechtel named County Attorney of Year (cont. from pg. 1)**

"Doing the work county attorneys do is a unique niche within the legal profession," Bechtel said. "The North Carolina Association of County Attorneys is comprised of attorneys from across the State who are dedicated to the elected officials, managers and citizens they serve. The professionalism and expertise of this excellent group of lawyers is outstanding. To receive the Outstanding County Attorney of the Year from these peers is such an honor and I am very appreciative of the recognition."

Bechtel, who was admitted as a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court in 2004, served as president of the Catawba County Bar Association in 2005, and as president of both the North Carolina Association of Police Attorneys and the 25th Judicial District Bar in 2006.

A graduate of the University of Florida College of Law, Bechtel began working with Catawba County in January 1996, after having served as an Assistant District Attorney in the 25th Judicial District since 1992. She provides day to day support to the County Manager's Office, Cooperative Extension, Economic Development Corporation, Emergency Services, Environmental Health, the County's Library System, Public Health, Register of Deeds, Sheriff's Office and Utilities and Engineering. She has served the Catawba County Board of Commissioners as County Attorney, responsible for providing legal advice to the Board, since December 2006.

Bechtel created the first EMS legal training course used in Catawba County, and has done a complete revision of the County Code. She

has taught numerous groups on legal issues related to planning and zoning, and has taught human services and law enforcement issues and been a guest lecturer at Wake Forest University for the past sixteen years.

Bechtel is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and the National Public Health Lawyers Association; is a founding member of the Legal Advisor Section of the National Sheriffs Association; and is chair of the Catawba County Criminal Justice Partnership Board and Past President of the Catawba County Parenting Network.

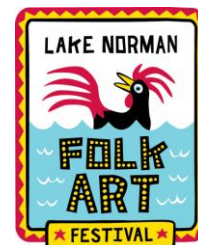
Bechtel and her husband, Ken, a professor of sociology and criminology at Wake Forest University, live in Conover. They have two sons, Greg, 24, who sells spine stabilization equipment and assists neurosurgeons in operating rooms and Stephen, 15, a sophomore at Discovery High School and member of the Newton-Conover High School football team.

"We're extremely proud of Debra, and deeply appreciate the guidance and counsel she provides here in Catawba County," said Tom Lundy, Catawba County Manager. "Her knowledge and the vast array of her legal experience have served the organization and the citizens of Catawba County well, and earned her the respect of her co-workers and her colleagues. We're glad her state association benefitted from her leadership, and that her contribution to local government statewide has been recognized by her peers."

### **Miller honored as Finance Officer of Year (cont. from pg. 1)**

Miller is Immediate Past President of the Association. He began serving as Catawba County's Finance Director in February 2001, after working for the City of Hickory for more than five years as Assistant Finance Director. He grew up in the St. Stephens community, and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Accounting from North Carolina State University in 1992.

The purpose of the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association is "to promote the improvement of the methods of governmental financing in North Carolina as developed and recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and other recognized authorities in the field of government administration."



### **Lake Norman Folk Art Festival Set for Oct. 6**

Everyone is invited to the fourth annual Lake Norman Folk Art

Festival, 10:30 am. to 4:30 pm, Saturday, October 6 at 3630 Drum Campground Road, Sherrills Ford.

Over 35 folk artists and potters will be selling their work. There will be live music and free art activities for kids. Food will be for sale. Admission and parking are free.

For details, visit [www.lakenormanfolkartfestival.com](http://www.lakenormanfolkartfestival.com). This family-friendly event is sponsored by the Hickory Museum of Art.



by  
Tammy Wilson

**'UFO investigator' to read  
at Newton Sept. 13**



David Halperin, author of *Journal of a UFO Investigator*, will launch the fall program series at Catawba County Library, Newton, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 13. Halperin, a former professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, penned this debut novel based on his boyhood imaginings.

The programs are free and open to the public, compliments of Friends of Catawba County Library. The authors will have books available for sale and signing. Halperin, a former professor of Jewish history at UNC-Chapel Hill, wrote this debut novel over 14 years

The story opens with protagonist Danny Shapiro, an isolated teenager living with a dying mother, a hostile father, and without friends. To cope, Danny

creates a reality of his own, which includes the sinister "Three Men in Black," mysterious lake creatures with insect-like carapaces, a beautiful young seductress and thief with whom Danny falls in love, and an alien/human love child who—if only Danny can keep her alive—will redeem the planet.

As Danny's fictional world blends with his day-to-day life, profound questions about what is real and what is imagined begin to arise.

**Library card one of the  
best deals around**

Catawba County Library is promoting literacy through the Smartest Card campaign in September. The Smartest Card, of course, is your library card that allows you to check out books and audio/visual materials, but also lets you access a wealth of information without leaving your home or office.

Cardholders may place holds on materials at [www.catawbacountync.gov/library](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library). You can download books directly from the site for use on your eReader, MPR3 player or personal computer. You can also access special research tools such as NCLIVE, data base that offers Learning Express Library, HeritageQuest, hard-to-locate journals, magazine articles, documentaries, art exhibits and more.

Your library card number is your password.

**Make the most of  
your reunion**

Suppose your family is holding a reunion picnic, maybe a reunion weekend surrounded by cousins, good food, songs, games and old-time stories. The scrapbooks, photos and memorabilia will remind you, or maybe introduce you, to relatives of the past.

Maybe an ambitious cousin has compiled the family history, but as accurate as that book may be, it's never "finished." The information captured in such books can always be expanded. Families grow. Likewise, there will be relatives that aren't included in a family history for various reasons. Maybe they moved away and lost touch.

And what about grandmother's family or your great grandmother's? Often the female line is barely mentioned, yet your siblings and cousins are equally related to maternal ancestors as to forbearers who carry your grandfather's surname.

Family reunions are great for inspiration. Go to your reunion with a camera and notebook (or iPad). Talk to your cousins, exchange contact information and keep in touch. Those relatives could be your springboard to your own research such as investigating the female lines in the family, ancestors who predate the "founders."

**(see Library News, pg. 11)**





## HEALTH SCREENINGS -2012

The following screenings are provided at no charge for employees participating in the Employee Health Screening Program in order to complete the biometric data for the Health Risk Assessment. Spouses and retirees who are on the County's health plan may also attend the screening at no charge to complete their biometric data as part of the Spouse & Retiree Health Screening program.

For more information about the Employee and Spouse/Retiree Health Screening Program, please visit <http://catawbaorg/Intranet/benefits/wellness/HRA.asp>

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Please NO food or drink (except water) at least 9 to 12 hours before the screening!**

WHEN	TIME	BUILDING	ROOM
Wednesday, September 5, 2012	6:30am to 9:30am	Government Center	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Meeting Room
Friday, September 7, 2012	6:30am to 9:30am	Government Center	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Meeting Room
Tuesday, September 11, 2012	7:00am to 9:30am	Public Health	Front Classrooms
Friday, September 14, 2012	7:00am to 9:30am	Public Health	Front Classrooms
Tuesday, September 18, 2012	7:00am to 9:30am	Social Services	Assembly Room
Thursday, September 20, 2012	7:00am to 9:30am	Social Services	Assembly Room
Tuesday, September 25, 2012	6:00am to 9:00am	Sheriff's Office	Conference Room

### The Health Screenings will include the following:

- ✓ Height and Weight Check
- ✓ Blood Pressure Check
- ✓ **NEW!** Waist Girth measurement (optional)
- ✓ **NEW!** Comprehensive Metabolic Profile
  - Includes regular testing for cholesterol and blood glucose plus testing for kidney and liver function and CBC - Complete Blood Count
- ✓ **NEW!** TSH Test (Thyroid) for women 40 and older
- ✓ PSA testing for men 40 and older





## HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

by  
Glennie Daniels

A home that supports children as students contributes significantly to their academic success. Laying the foundation for a supportive home involves providing the right environment.

Households that lack structure and organization or positive encouragement tend to produce disorganized or unmotivated students.

Some parents worry that too much structure can harm a child's development while other parents are concerned about being too lax and not providing enough. Structuring your children's every waking minute while you frantically cart them to extra-curricular activities is likely to be counterproductive. These children often feel overloaded, unmotivated, and depressed.

One of the best ways to make learning a positive experience for you and your child is to apply the following principles of organization and structure developed by Joan Garrett at The Ohio State University Extension.

**Help your child develop a work area.** Children usually do better when they have a private study area away from interruption. Some children prefer to work at the kitchen table. If so, make the kitchen off limits to other family members during study time. Equip your child's study area with a good light, a clock, pencils,

paper, and a wide variety of reference materials.

**Agree on a regular time for studying.** Forcing yourself to sit down and do something you do not enjoy is tough, even for adults. Children have an even harder time. To help your child make homework a habit, schedule a set time each day for homework. Your child may find it beneficial to organize homework time into short work periods (perhaps 20 minutes) with time in between to play or exercise. The renewed energy can be helpful. Likewise, most children can use some physical activity right after school before sitting back down to homework.

**Help your child develop a homework "to do" list.** Keeping track of homework assignments can be difficult for some students. Help your child develop a system for writing down assignments as the teacher gives them then checking them off when completed. Such a "to do" list also gives your child a productive system for tackling other kinds of work.

**Provide a quiet environment for study.** You can show your child that you value homework and respect the need to complete it effectively by keeping the house quiet. For those children sensitive to background noise, a noisy environment is a real distraction. For all children, a quiet home during homework time sends a very supportive message. You could even go one step further by making this a study time for the entire family. Parents might read a book or the newspaper while children complete their school assignments. The message that we are a family of learners will be received loud and clear.

## Diversity Activities Calendar

<http://cocatshare01/committees/diversitycom/Documents/CommunityDiversityCalendar.pdf>

## SPIRIT CLASSIFIEDS

**COMPUTER ARMOIRE FOR SALE:** Solid wood, less than 2 yrs old, retail was \$1000/asking \$750. Pictures available Contact Angie Ehrenreich 828-695-5718/work or email: [aehrenreich@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:aehrenreich@catawbacountync.gov)

**MOUNTAIN BIKE FOR SALE:** Diamondback Apex SE Mountain bike – Pearl White in color. Features include front fork suspension, TIG – welded steel frame, Shimano STX components, Shimano Front and Rear Derailleur, like new tires. Just had an all over maintenance check so it has new tubes and is "ready to ride". Bike sold new at around \$600- \$650..... am asking \$190.00. Contact Judy at [JBarringer@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:JBarringer@catawbacountync.gov), or 828-514-4102.

**TRUCK FOR SALE:** 2011 Silverado 1500 4WD Extended Cab LT - \$27,300. Steel green metallic exterior with grey cloth interior. Like new with less than 8,200 miles. Convenience package: Adjustable pedals, Rear park assist,



Electric rear window defogger, Remote vehicle starter system, Universal home remote, All Star Edition Package: 5.3L Flex Fuel V8 engine (15/21 MPG), 6-speed automatic transmission, Locking rear differential, Trailering package, Heavy duty cooling, Auto dual-zone air conditioning, Bluetooth for phone, CD player with USB port, Steering wheel radio controls, Power seat adjuster – driver, Fog lamps, Locking tailgate, EZ-lift tailgate, Off-road suspension package: Off-road skid plates, High capacity air cleaner, 18" aluminum wheels, Trailer brake controller, Drop in bed liner. Contact Scott at (828) 455-5860.

**COMPUTER REPAIR:** For all your computer repair needs, call Terry at 465-1464 or 446-6116. Over 10 yrs experience.

**FIREARMS SERVICES:** Gun auctions, FFL transfers, firearm sales, refinishing, gunsmithing. Pistol transfer is \$20, long gun is \$25. Contact Dale Bentley at 828-615-7411, 302-5812 or [dbentley@tacticalweaponssupply.net](mailto:dbentley@tacticalweaponssupply.net).

**TRUCK FOR SALE:** Green 1998 Dodge Dakota 4x4 truck for sale. 5.2L V8 with 170,000 miles. Asking \$2,800. OBO. Contact Steven Kendrick (704) 472-6716.

**UPCOMING TRAINING ON REACTING RESPONSIBLY TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:** Stewards of Children is a

prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is a 2.5 hour training program that includes a three-part DVD presentation integrating commentary from sexual abuse survivors, experts in the field and other concerned adults. TRAINING IS OFFERED FREE thanks to a donation from the Hickory Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Club of Western Catawba.

For more information about Stewards or to schedule a training please contact: Adrienne Opdyke at the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center Email: [aopdyke@catawbacountync.org](mailto:aopdyke@catawbacountync.org) or phone 828-465-7665

**CARING COUPLES AND SINGLE ADULTS NEEDED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE:** Social Services is looking for couples and single adults to become trained and licensed to provide therapeutic family-based services for special needs youth.

Applicants must reside in Catawba County or a surrounding county and be at least 21 years of age. All applicants are subject to a criminal records check. For more information, contact Matt Hillman at 695-2115.

### Library News (continued from pg. 7)

Likewise, gathering data about current generations should be added to the family records. Your family historian will thank you for your input.

Be sure to visit the Rhodes Local History Room at Catawba County Library in Newton. If you have local roots, there may be files or other books about your family. The library also allows free access to Ancestry.com and to NCLIVE, a statewide data base including federal census records, military records and more.

The Rhodes Room collection focuses on Catawba County and western North Carolina, but also includes eastern North Carolina materials. Nineteen other states are represented. The Catawba County resources include cemetery records, census transcriptions, marriage, court and will records and county histories.

Browse the stacks to see what's available. And don't forget that maps and newspaper articles can help bring your family's story to life.

For more information about available resources, visit the Rhodes Room, visit [www.catawbacountync.gov/library](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library) or call 465-8669.

## NOMINATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR EMPLOYEE OF YEAR

The Employee Committee is now accepting nominations for Employee of the Year. Any County employee may submit a nomination.

To nominate an employee, you will need to type a narrative that is **no more than one page** that gives specific examples of how the nominee has shown **exemplary service or job performance**. In order to submit your candidate, you will need to email your narrative to me at [matthewc@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:matthewc@catawbacountync.gov). **All nominations must be submitted by September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

We are looking for the following qualities in our candidates:

1. Employees who display, on a consistent basis, superior performance in all of the following: attendance, attitude, cooperation, initiative & leadership, timely completion of duties, consistent application of the safety rules OR
2. Employees who consistently go “above and beyond” what is expected in his/her job or displays exceptional merit on a consistent, long term basis OR
3. Employees who have worked on a single project or who, through an act of exceptional performance, resulted in one of the following: increased department/division productivity or efficiency, significant cost savings, resolving a significant problem, or increased morale & motivation of employees.

Following are the guidelines for who is eligible for the award:

1. Nominees must have 2 years of service.
2. Nominees cannot be a contractor.
3. Department heads cannot be nominated.



## KAY AND WRIGHT NAMED EMS EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

by  
Jennifer Rice

Catawba County EMS recently announced their Employees of the Year for 2011. Sharing the honor this year are Noel Kay and Andrew Wright. The two were bestowed the award on July 9, 2012, at Newton EMS Base.



**Noel Kay** currently serves as Shift Supervisor over D shift, responsible for overseeing operational activities of his shift, including coordinating general maintenance of units and bases, completing necessary paperwork, and dissemination of supplies and equipment. He also participates in the

Management Team. Since taking this position, he has taken over ordering of supplies for the organization, and has implemented a system to both streamline the process and reduce cost. Kay was named to the Shift Supervisor position in 2010, before which he served as a Crew Chief and Field Training Officer.

In his nomination, Kay is described as a leader who "works well with all parties involved in any situation to come to a satisfactory resolution to any problem or circumstance, while maintaining a positive attitude toward all. He addresses issues with his staff in a manner that defines professionalism."

Kay has worked for Catawba County EMS since 1993.

When asked his thoughts on being named Employee of the Year, Kay said, "It has always been my opinion that an award such as this is not the result of one person's efforts in one year but rather a result of many people's

efforts for many years. My thanks go out to all those whom I have worked with over the last 19 years for teaching me something along the way. "



**Andrew Wright** is the Training Officer for EMS, where his responsibilities include developing and managing the continuing education program for the EMS System. He oversees the quality management program, investigates medical complaints, trains new employees and works with current employees to keep credentials current.

Wright serves on local, state and regional EMS training committees and responds to emergency calls. Prior to taking this position in 2010, he served as Chief Trainer for Specialty Services and was responsible for coordinating monthly training and evaluation of all shift members, in addition to performing all the skills and duties of an EMT-Paramedic and Field Training Officer. He continues to serve as a member of the Catawba County Hazmat, State Medical Assistance Team, Tactical Medic, Injury Prevention, Special Events and PR & Marketing Teams.

The unnamed employee who nominated Wright wrote, "Rarely someone comes to EMS that can provide an impact during most of their tenure. I believe Andy is one of those people. Andy's contributions to EMS and his commitment and dedication to professionalism make him someone that represents all that is good in our job and provides a role model for those beginning their career in EMS."

Wright dedicated himself to a career in EMS at just 16, when he began volunteering, and then started as an EMS employee in 2001. Says Wright of the award, "I just try to help out and do what I can, whenever I can. I appreciate the consideration and I am humbled and honored to receive the award for a second time."

## ONE-DAY ELECTRONICS COLLECTION SET

Catawba County will offer its citizens a free opportunity to properly dispose of computers, televisions and other electronic devices on Saturday, September 8, 2012, at the Blackburn Landfill, off Highway 10 west of Newton. This continues a set of collection days started during Fiscal Year 2011-2012, following a ban of computer equipment and televisions from disposal in North Carolina landfills that took effect on July 1, 2011.

Materials to be accepted will include, but are not limited to, televisions, computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, cables, printers, VCRs, DVD players, scanners, stereos, cell phones, telephones, copiers, pagers, calculators, fax machines, projection equipment, headphones, speakers, cameras, palm pilots, GPS units, iPods, MP3 players, power supplies, and movie and video equipment. Paint will also be accepted at the September 8 collection.

To reach the Blackburn Landfill, travel to the intersection of Highway 10 and Hickory-Lincolnton Highway, then turn south onto Hickory-Lincolnton Highway and bear left onto Rocky Ford Road.

All data and data-bearing devices on electronic equipment will be destroyed. The County cannot guarantee the non-disclosure of any information left on equipment, so citizens bringing data-bearing devices are advised to make sure personal data is removed or erased.

For more information, you may call the Blackburn Landfill at 704-462-1348 or the County Recycling and Waste Reduction office at 828-465-8217.

## FEE NOT NEEDED FOR COPY OF DEED

The Sheriff's Office reports that some County residents have received official looking letters asking them to pay \$85 for a copy of their property deed. Although the letter does indicate this is a service provided by the company and it is not affiliated by any government, it is an unnecessary service.

While the Register of Deeds Office charges 25 cents per page for a copy of a deed, and \$5 for the first page and \$2 for each additional page for a certified copy of a deed, you do not need to pay any company to get a copy of your deed.

Just contact the Register of Deeds office in the Catawba County Justice Center. You may also visit their website at [www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/regdeed](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/regdeed)

## SEPTEMBER DEADLINES

**August 31-** Story concepts, for which we must budget a lot of space

**September 7-** Short submissions and FINAL

## DEADLINES

**August 31-** Story concepts, for which we must budget a lot of space

## CATAWBA COUNTY SPIRIT

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